

MUNICIPAL COURTS

Municipal courts were organized subject to Act 5 of 1956, although most were organized under either Act 279 of 1909 or Act 269 of 1933. They have exclusive original jurisdiction over all ordinance violations, criminal jurisdiction equal to that of district court, and civil jurisdiction of claims limited to \$1,500. As of January 1, 1999, those municipal courts which obtained the approval of their local funding units increased their civil jurisdiction to claims of up to \$3,000.

The District Court Act of 1968 abolished most of the municipal courts, but permitted some municipalities to retain their courts. Four such municipal courts remain: Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, and Grosse Pointe Woods, all in Wayne County. On January 1, 2004, the Eastpointe Municipal Court in Macomb County became the 38th District Court.

The common pleas court in Detroit was a consolidation of the various justices of the peace courts that formerly existed in the city. Its jurisdiction in civil cases was greater than that of the old justice courts. The common pleas court was abolished, effective September 1, 1981, by Act 438 of 1980, when the 36th District Court was created.

The recorder's court of Detroit had jurisdiction over criminal cases within the city of Detroit. It also maintained a traffic and ordinance division to handle traffic and ordinance cases. This division was abolished, effective September 1, 1981, by Act 438 of 1980, with the creation of the 36th District Court. The recorder's court was abolished October 1, 1997 and merged with the Wayne County Circuit Court.

Municipal judges must be lawyers and residents and electors of their municipalities. They are paid by the municipalities and are elected for 4-year terms.

TRENDS IN MUNICIPAL COURT FILINGS, 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	32,537	30,027	31,232	34,846	32,533	19,465

JUDGES OF MUNICIPAL COURTS

City	Judge
Grosse Pointe	Russell F. Ethridge
Grosse Pointe Farms	Matthew R. Rumora
Grosse Pointe Park	Carl F. Jarboe
Grosse Pointe Woods	Lynne A. Pierce

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